

A Z T A G

13 January 1948

The Premier in Antilias

Riad Bey SULH paid a visit to the Catholics in Antilias on Saturday afternoon on the occasion of Christmas. He was accompanied by two Armenian deputies. The visit lasted about an hour, during which time the Most Reverend Catholics stated that the Armenian Communists form a very small minority of only five percent. Other subjects of interest to Armenians in Lebanon were discussed. Riad Bey said that steps have been taken by the Government to place the population, now living in tin huts at Bourj Hamoud, in new places. The huts are to be destroyed. A special committee has already been formed on which the two Armenian deputies will serve. Then the Premier said that since his childhood, he has known the Armenians as always having been on the roads of exile, and has had a special sympathy for them.

The Catholics conveyed his best wishes to the Premier, his Government, and the President of the Republic, which Riad Bey said he would convey to the President personally.

The Premier was served with champagne, chocolates from Erivan and with oranges and tangerines from the Seminary garden. The guest was interested in the very fine fruits of the garden, and noted that they were the results obtained from "Arab land and Armenian work" and were marvelous.

14 January 1948

Lake Sevan seen by a Swiss Man

The following article, entitled "Lake Sevan" appeared in the October 29 issue of Swiss "La Tribune de Geneve."

"Lake Sevan is the greatest mountain lake in the Soviet Union. It is 1916 meters high, 1413 square meters wide, and 70 kilometers from Erivan, the capital of Soviet Armenia.

"The inhabitants of the country humorously call Lake Sevan the "Armenian Sea." There are many kinds of fishes in Lake Sevan. The lake is a huge store for white coal (electric power) whose volume is millions of cubic meters.

"During the fourth Five-Year Plan, it is planned to use the waters of Lake Sevan for electricity and irrigation purposes. A whole net of strong hydro-electric stations will be constructed for this purpose.

"The waters of Sevan will flow from man-made canals and will move the

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turbines of seven hydro-electric stations, which are fixed by consecutive graduations. When the construction of these stations is completed, Armenia will have very cheap electricity.

"The paper has also published the photo of the great canal which carries the waters of Sevan to Kanaker (near Erivan, a center of electricity).

15 January 1948

#### The Armenian Genius

Editorial on the occasion of the musical evening when 11 year old Varoujian gave a violin recital which was a real surprise.

The editorial also refers to young Raffi who was attracting the appreciation of European society with his piano recitals. Under the present circumstances most of our talents are often swallowed up by foreign countries. Often such abilities die because of lack of opportunities or family financial difficulties.

Let us appreciate our talents and do our best to provide them with the necessary opportunity and means for progress, thus increasing our centuries-old culture, for our self-protection, and in order to open new horizons for the development of Armenian talents.

17 January 1948

#### About the Visit of the Premier to Antilias

We have received an official note from Antilias saying that our quotation from the Catholics that "The Communists in Armenians form a very small minority, maximum five percent" does not fully express the Catholics' declaration on the subject, and that the correct form is thus: "In Lebanon, Armenian Communists form a very small minority, scarcely five percent, but their expressions are purely patriotic, which is a natural feeling of the human spirit."

Since Antilias wants the public to know the whole conversation, it was as follows: The Catholics offered chocolates to the Premier, informing him that they were from Armenia. The Premier took the chocolate and said, "I hope this is not a communist chocolate." Then the Catholics said: "In this building no communists may enter. Already the communists form a very small number in our people, scarcely five percent." The Catholics added also that expressions used are purely patriotic. Riad Bey SULH, certainly referring to the Government's action which has taken place lately, replied: "Now I helped you to talk fearlessly."

A R A R A D

13 January 1948

We are sorry to learn that "Joghovourti Tzain", Armenian newspaper, is suspended for an indefinite period.

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In reply to many oral and written questions about the health of our friend, A. Eldjanian, we wish to inform everyone that for twenty days he was suffering from pleurisy, but now the danger is past and it is expected that he will start working in about 15 days.

15 January 1948

In a declaration made to the Press, Riad Bey SULH said that the special actions taken against the Communist Party and the Trade Syndicates do not harm the activities of the regular syndicates, which are permitted by law.

The Syndicate of Carpenter workers has addressed an open letter of protest to Riad Bey SULH condemning the closing of the Syndicate's club and requesting an investigation of the Syndicates' documents to see whether they have acted against the law or not.

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Soviet Commerce on the Eve of 1948

The Correspondent of TASS had an interview with Alexander LIYUBIMOV, Minister of Soviet Domestic Commerce, who said that:

Domestic commerce increased twenty per cent during 1947; 60,000 new shops, restaurants, cafes and other commercial enterprises were opened or re-founded.

Today the Soviet commercial enterprises have reached their pre-war standard and level. There is now an open market for foodstuffs and industrial goods, no more ration cards, and everyone may purchase whatever he likes, according to his means. The Soviet Union does not fix prices for the open market and this has resulted in a general lowering of prices.

Wages were not decreased, and the laborer can therefore buy more goods today with his income than before.

The plan for 1948 is more production of agricultural and industrial goods and the raising of the standards of living for laborers, employees, and country people will result in a greater demand for goods, and thus the future of Soviet commerce is much brighter.

16 January 1948

On Wednesday, Riad Bey SULH had a meeting with Messrs. Adib NAHAS, Eduard Abi-JUYID and Joseph DONATO for the examination of various questions arising as a result of the closing down of the Communist Party and the Syndicates League.

Many members of the Communist Party gathered in front of the Grand Serail to pretest against the closing of the Clubs.

Riad Bey SULH received their representatives and said that the Government will not take back its firm decision.